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E.R. McCLINTOCK
DIX.

His Majesties
MOST GRACIOUS
SPEECH
To both HOUSES of
PARLIAMENT,
At the Opening of the PARLIAMENT at *Oxford*, *Munday* the 21*st*. of *March* 168$\frac{0}{1}$.

Published by His Majesties Command.

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To both HOUSES of

PARLIAMENT,

At the Opening of the PARLIAMENT at *Oxford Mnnday* the 21*st*. of *March* 1680.

Published by His Majesties Command.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THe unwarantable Proceedings of the last House of Commons, were the Occasion of My parting with the last Parliament, For I who will never use Arbitrary Government My Self, am resolved not to suffer it in others. I am unwilling to mention Particulars, because I am desirous to forget Faults: But who ever shall calmly consider what Offers I have formerly made, and what Assurances I renewed to the last Parliament, how I recommended nothing so much to them, as the Alliances I had made, for preservation of the general Peace in Christendom, and the further Examination of the Popish Plot, and how I desired their advice and Assistance concerning the Preservation of *Tangier*; and shall then reflect upon the strange unsuitable Returns made to such propositions, by Men that were call'd together to Consult, perhaps may wonder more, that I had patience so long, than that at last I grew weary of their proceedings.

I have thought it necessary to say thus much to you; That I may not have any new Occasion given Me to remember more of the late Miscarriages. It is as much my Interest, and shall be as much My Care as yours, to preserve the Liberty of the Subject, because the Crown can never be safe when that is in danger. And I would have you likewise be convinc'd that neither your Liberties nor Properties can subsist long, when the just Rights and Prerogatives of the Crown are invaded, or the Honour of the Government brought low and into Disreputation.

I let you see by my calling this Parliament so soon, that no Irregularities in Parliaments shall make Me out of Love with them;

and

and by this Means offer you another oppertunity of providing for Our ſecurity here, bygiving that Countenance and protection to Our Neighbours and Allies, which you cannot but know they expect from Us, and extremely ſtand in need of at this inſtant; and at the ſame time give one Evidence more that I have not neglected my part, to give that general Satisfaction and ſecurity, which, by the Bleſſing of God, may be attained, if you, on your parts, bring ſuitable Diſpoſitions towards it: And that the juſt Care you ought to have of Religion, be not ſo managed and improv'd into unneceſſary Fears, as to be made a pretence for changing the Foundations of the Government.

I hope the Example of the ill Succeſsof former Heats, will diſpoſe you to a better Temper, and not ſo much to Inveigh againſt what is paſt, as to Conſider what is beſt to be done in the preſent Conjuncture.

The further proſecution of the Plot, the Tryal of the Lords in the Tower, the providing a more ſpeedy Conviction for Recuſants; and if it be practicable, the Ridding Our ſelves quite of all of that Party, that have any conſiderable Authority and intereſt amongſt Them, are things, though of the higheſt Importance; that hardly need to be recommended to you, they are ſo obvious to every man's Conſideration, and ſo neceſſary for Our Security. But I muſt needs deſire you not to lay ſo much weight upon any one Expedient againſt Popery, as to determine, that all other are ineffectual: And among all your Cares for Religion, remember that without the Safety and Dignity, of the Monarchy, neither Religion nor Property can be preſerved.

What I have formerly, and ſo often declared touching the Succeſſion, I cannot depart from. But to remove all reaſonable Fears that may ariſe from the Poſſibility of a Popiſh Succeſſor's coming to the Crown, if means can be found, that, in ſuch a caſe, the Adminiſtration of the Government may remain in Proteſtant Hands, I ſhall be ready to hearken to any ſuch Expedient, by which the Religion might be preſerv'd, and the Monarchy not deſtroy'd.

I muſt therefore earneſtly recommend to you, to provide for the Religion and the Government together, with regard to one another, becauſe they ſupport each other: And let us be united at Home, that We may recover the Eſteem and Conſideration We uſed to have abroad.

I conclude with this One Advice to you, That the Rules and meaſures of all your Votes may be the known and eſtabliſhed Laws of the Land, which neither can, nor ought to be departed from, nor chang'd, but by Act of Parliament. And I may the more Reaſonably require, That you make the Laws of the Land your Rule, becauſe I am reſolved they ſhall be Mine.

FINIS.